

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 DODE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01

/140 W

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R 250700Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4583

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 1522

REF: USNATO 3479

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI CONFIRMED TO US JULY 22 THAT ITALY IS UNDER EXTREMELY HEAVY PRESSURE TO PROVIDE CASH GRANT OF UNSPECIFIED BUT PRESUMABLY IMPORTANT AMOUNT TO ASSIST IN UNDERWRITING EXPENSES OF NEW PIONEER CORPS. MINTOFF AND HIS PEOPLE INSIST THAT ITALY MADE SUCH COMMITMENT UNDER LAST GOVERNMENT AND NEW GOVERNMENT MUST LIVE UP TO IT.

2. IT IS AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT ITALIAN INSISTENCE ON MAKING SOME KIND OF EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENT COULD BE ACCOMMODATED FOR THIS PURPOSE. WHEN MINTOFF LATER RECEIVES BAD NEWS IN OCTOBER REGARDING ITALIAN SPECIAL PAYMENT, ITALIANS COULD INSIST THAT PRINCIPLE BE MAINTAINED, BUT POINT OUT TO MINTOFF
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THAT THEY ARE BEING HELPFUL IN OTHER DIRECTIONS.

3. THIS PROPOSAL NEVERTHELESS SUFFERS FROM TWO WEAKNESSES.
FIRST, AS SUGGESTED IN REFTTEL PARA 5, MINTOFF WOULD PROBABLY
POCKET EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENT AND STILL DEMAND SPECIAL PAYMENT
AS ITALIANS EXPECT. SECOND PROBLEM IS THAT EXCEPTIONAL PAYMENT,
PARTICULARLY IF SIMILAR IN VALUE TO FIRST ITALIAN SPECIAL PAYMENT,
WOULD BE LINED IN MINTOFF'S MIND TO SPECIAL PAYMENTS,
AND THIS IN TURN WOULD BRING THAT PRINCIPLE OF SPECIAL PAYMENTS
CALCULATION SHOULD BE MAINTAINED, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT WITH
OR WITHOUT CONSENSUS AMONG CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES, ITALY
WILL FIND SOME WAY TO IMPLEMENT ITS PROPOSAL.
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